

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T STATE 253440

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: GR, CY, PINT

SUBJECT:CYPRUS - CALL BY GREEK AMBASSADOR ON SISCO

1. DURING NOVEMBER 14 DISCUSSION ON CYPRUS, GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS INDICATED TO SISCO THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT MAKARIOS' INTENTION TO RETURN TO NICOSIA LATER THIS MONTH TO RESUME PRESIDENCY, BUT IS DOUBTFUL HE CAN BE PERSUADED TO POSTPONE HIS RETURN. ONLY ARGUMENT WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE SOME IMPACT ON ARCHBISHOP'S THINKING IS THAT HIS RE-ENTRY COULD LEAD TO DISTURBANCES IN GREEK-CYPRIOT COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY BY EXTREMISTS. ALL OTHER ARGUMENTS, INCLUDING LIKELY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO GRANT CONCESSIONS AND ON DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS, ARE BRUSHED ASIDE BY MAKARIOS WITH COMMENTS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: (A) THE TURKS INVADED CYPRUS TO RESTORE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. I AM THE CONSTITUTIONAL LEADER OF CYPRUS. THEREFORE, WHY SHOULD THEY OBJECT TO MY RETURN?; (B) CLERIDES HAS TO NEGOTIATE EVEN NOW WITH MY VIEWS IN MIND. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF HE NEGOTIATES WHETHER I AM ABROAD OR IN CYPRUS? IN RESPONSE

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TO ALEXANDRAKIS' COMMENTS ON MAKARIOS, SISCO SAID THAT

WE HAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION ARCHBISHOP IS PLANNING TO GO BACK TO CYPRUS SHORTLY AFTER THE GREEK ELECTIONS AND THAT WE AGREE HIS RETURN COULD BE A COMPLICATING FACTOR.

2. TURNING TO OTHER ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM, SISCO TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS (A) THE SECRETARY HAD HAD A GOOD MEETING WITH BITSIOS IN ROME; (B) WE REGRETTED VERY MUCH THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO ANKARA HAD TO BE POSTPONED, PARTICULARLY AS ECEVIT WAS PREPARED TO MAKE SOME UNILATERAL GESTURES; (C) OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IT WILL TAKE A WHILE LONGER FOR THE TURKS TO PUT TOGETHER A NEW GOVERNMENT; AND (D) WE FACE ANOTHER PROBLEM, NAMELY THE DECEMBER 10 DEADLINE ON AID TO TURKEY. IN ANSWER TO ALEXANDRAKIS' SPECIFIC QUESTION, SISCO INDICATED THAT THE CONCESSIONS RELATED TO TROOP REDUCTIONS, REFUGEES AND PULLING BACK OF TURKISH FORCES FROM THEIR PRESENT LINES AND THAT, WHILE THESE GESTURES WOULD HAVE BEEN SMALL STEPS, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS.

3. SISCO'S COMMENTS ON AID TO TURKEY LED ALEXANDRAKIS TO ARGUE THAT IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IF THE TURKS WOULD ALLOW THE RE-OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT AND THE RELEASE OF THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS NOW CONFINED TO THE DOME HOTEL IN KYRENIA. ALEXANDRAKIS SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT, IF THESE HUMANITARIAN STEPS WERE TAKEN, HE FELT PROSPECTS FOR AVOIDING A CUT-OFF AID TO TURKEY WOULD BE IMPROVED. KISSINGER

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